

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for linking panels in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:
 - determining if a current panel is a custom panel;
 - if the current panel is a custom panel, retrieving a set of navigation objects from the current panel;
 - determining, for each navigation object in the set, if an event associated with each navigation object is one of a linking event and a non-linking event, wherein the linking event links the current panel to a target panel;
 - if the event is a linking event, assigning the current panel as the target panel;
 - creating a set of data objects for display in [[a]] the target panel, wherein each data object within the set of data objects is associated with a data type; and
 - creating a set of navigation objects for display in the target panel, wherein each navigation object within the set of navigation objects is associated with an event, ~~a target object associated with the event, and a target object action associated with the target object in which the target object action is applied to the target object.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein properties of the set of data objects and properties of the set of navigation objects includes at least one of a text field, a combo box, and a radio button for the current and target panel are stored in a plurality of entries in a database, and wherein each entry includes a set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of data objects and a set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of navigation objects for a different panel.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein each of the set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of navigation objects includes at least one of a button, a slider, and a scroll bar a name of each navigation object and a value of a target panel to which each navigation object is linked.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, ~~wherein the event is a right mouse click~~ each of the set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of data objects includes a value of a data type associated with each data object and a name of each data object.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 4, ~~wherein the event is a depression of a function key~~ further comprising:
if the current panel is a custom panel, attaching a header to the name of each data object of the current panel, wherein the header uniquely identifies a data object across multiple panels; and
storing the set of navigation objects and a set of data objects for the current panel to a set of name-value pairs in an entry of the database.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein an identification of the set of data objects and associations are stored in a list~~ further comprising:
if the event is a non-linking event and is an OK event, retrieving user input data of each data object in the set of data objects from the current panel and linked panels; and
storing the user input data to the database.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 6, ~~wherein an identification of the set of navigation objects and associations are stored in a list~~ further comprising:
if the event is a non-linking event and is a Cancel event, closing the current panel;
and
discarding the user input data.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
if the event is a non-linking event and the event performs a task, creating a set of information objects for display in the target panel.
9. (Currently Amended) A linked target panel for use in a graphical user interface, the panel comprising:

a set of data objects ~~for a~~ displayed in the target panel;
a set of navigation objects ~~[[for]]~~ displayed in the target panel;
~~a first list of data objects within wherein~~ the set of data objects are created from
properties of the set of data objects stored in a database, wherein each property includes a
name-value pair with a value of the first list contains an identification of a data type for
each data object and a name of each data object name within the first list; and
~~a second list of navigation objects within wherein~~ the set of navigation objects are
created from properties of the set of navigation objects stored in the database, wherein the
second list each navigation object in the set is associated with includes an event, a target
object associated with the event, and a target object action associated with the target
object in which the target object action is applied to the target object for each navigation
object within the list and wherein each property includes a name-value pair with a name
of each navigation object name and a value of a target panel to which each navigation
object is linked.

10. (Currently Amended) The panel of claim 9, further comprising:

a set of information objects for display in the target panel, wherein the set of
information objects are created to performs a set of tasks.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;
a communications unit connected to the bus system;
a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of
instructions; and
a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit
executes the set of instructions to
determine if a current panel is a custom panel;
if the current panel is a custom panel, retrieve a set of navigation objects from the
current panel;

determine, for each navigation object in the set, if an event associated with each navigation object is one of a linking event and a non-linking event, wherein the linking event links the current panel to a target panel;

if the event is a linking event, assign the current panel as the target panel;

create a set of data objects for display in the target [[a]] panel, wherein each data object within the set of data objects is associated with a data type; and

create a set of navigation objects for display in the target panel, wherein each navigation object within the set of navigation objects is associated with an event, a target object associated with the event, and a target object action associated with the target object in which the target object action is applied to the target object.

12. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for linking panels in a graphical user interface, the data processing system comprising:

first determining means for determining if a current panel is a custom panel;

retrieving means for retrieving a set of navigation objects from the current panel if the current panel is a custom panel;

second determining means for determining, for each navigation object in the set, if an event associated with each navigation object is one of a linking event and a non-linking event, wherein the linking event links the current panel to a target panel;

assigning means for assigning the current panel as the target panel;

[[first]] first creating means for creating a set of data objects for display in the target [[a]] panel, wherein each data object within the set of data objects is associated with a data type; and

second creating means for creating a set of navigation objects for display in the target panel, wherein each navigation object within the set of navigation objects is associated with an event, a target object associated with the event, and a target object action associated with the target object in which the target object action is applied to the target object.

13. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein properties of the set of data objects includes at least one of a text field, a combo box, and a radio

button and properties of the set of navigation objects for the current and target panel are stored in a plurality of entries in a database, and wherein each entry includes a set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of data objects and a set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of navigation objects for a different panel.

14. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim [[12]] 13, wherein each of the set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of navigation objects includes at least one of a button, a slider, and a scroll bar a name of each navigation object and a value of a target panel to which each navigation object is linked.

15. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim [[12]] 14, wherein the event is a right mouse click each of the set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of data objects includes a value of a data type associated with each data object and a name of each data object.

16. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim [[12]] 15, wherein the event is a depression of a function key further comprising:

attaching means for attaching a header to the name of each data object of the current panel if the current panel is a custom panel, wherein the header uniquely identifies a data object across multiple panels; and

storing means for storing the set of navigation objects and a set of data objects for the current panel to a set of name-value pairs in an entry of the database.

17. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 12, wherein an identification of the set of data objects and associations are stored in a list further comprising:

second retrieving means for retrieving user input data of each data object in the set of data objects from the current panel and linked panels if the event is a non-linking event and is an OK event; and

storing means for storing the user input to the database.

18. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 17, ~~wherein an identification of the set of navigation objects and associations are stored in a list~~ further comprising:

closing means for closing the current panel if the event is a non-linking event and is a Cancel event; and

discarding means for discarding the user input data.

19. (Currently Amended) The data processing system of claim 12, further comprising:

third creating means for creating a set of information objects for display in the target panel if the event is a non-linking event and the event performs a task.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium executed by a computing device for linking panels in a graphical user interface, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for determining if a current panel is a custom panel;

second instructions for retrieving a set of navigation objects from the current panel if the current panel is a custom panel;

third instructions for determining, for each navigation object in the set, if an event associated with each navigation object is one of a linking event and a non-linking event, wherein the linking event links the current panel to a target panel;

fourth instructions assigning the current panel as the target panel;

~~[[first]]~~ fifth instructions for creating a set of data objects for display in the target ~~[[a]]~~ panel, wherein each data object within the set of data objects is associated with a data type; and

~~second sixth~~ sixth instructions for creating a set of navigation objects for display in the target panel, wherein each navigation object within the set of navigation objects is associated with an event, a target object associated with the event, and a target object action associated with the target object in which the target object action is applied to the target object.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein properties of the set of data objects and properties of the set of navigation objects includes at least one of a textfield, a combo box, and a radio button for the current and target panel are stored in a plurality of entries in a database, wherein each entry includes a set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of data objects and a set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of navigation objects for a different panel.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim [[20]] 21, wherein each of the set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of navigation objects includes at least one of a button, a slider, and a scroll bar a name of each navigation object and a value of a target panel to which each navigation object is linked.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim [[20]] 22, wherein the event is a right mouse click each of the set of name-value pairs for the properties of the set of data objects includes a value of data type associated with each data object and a name of each data object.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim [[20]] 23, wherein the event is a depression of a function key further comprising:

seventh instructions for attaching a header to attaching a header to the name of each data object of the current panel if the current panel is a custom panel, wherein the header uniquely identifies a data object across multiple panels; and

eighth instructions for storing the set of navigation objects and a set of data objects for the current panel to a set of name-value pairs in an entry of the database.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20, ~~wherein an identification of the set of data objects and associations are stored in a list~~ further comprising:

seventh instructions for retrieving user input data of each data object in the set of data objects from the current panel and linked panels if the event is a non-linking event

and is an OK event; and

eighth instructions for storing the user input to the database.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim ~~[[20]]~~ 25, ~~wherein an identification of the set of navigation objects and associations are stored in a list~~ further comprising:

ninth instructions for closing the current panel if the event is a non-linking event and is a Cancel event; and

tenth instructions for discarding the user input data.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 20, further comprising:

[[third]] seventh instructions for creating a set of information objects for display in the target panel if the event is a non-linking event and the event performs a task.